

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 08636 121043Z

17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 120815Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9723

S E C R E T KINSHASA 8636

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, CG

SUBJ: ARMS SALES TO ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 8596

1. WITH USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH'S PRIOR ASSENT, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU OCT 10 TO OBSERVE THAT WHEN WE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF ARMS SEP 9 I HAD GONE AWAY FROM MEETING WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION OF URGENCY WITH PRESIDENT ATTACHED TO MATTER. I WAS CONCERNED THAT AFTER CONSTRUCTIVE BEGINNING OF DIALOGUE AND OFFER FROM ZAIREIS TO SUBMIT DETAILED REQUESTS AND JUSTIFICATIONS IN WRITING, SCHEDULED FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS HAD REPEATEDLY BEEN CANCELLED. TIME WAS PASSING.

2. PRESIDENT SAID PREPARATION OF PAPER HAD PROVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED BUT HE EXPECTED IT WOULD BE DELIVERED TO US OCTOBER 14. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA HAD INFORMED HIM OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM WHERE IT HAD ALSO BEEN MADE CLEAR THAT USG WAS WAITING FOR "ZAIRE'S LIST". PRESIDENT THEN SPOKE WITH FERVOR OF APPARENT AMERICAN INTENTION TO SELL ARMS RATHER THAN TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE ON CONCESSIONAL BASIS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ARMS WERE AVAILABLE ON FAVORABLE TERMS ELSEWHERE.

3. I REPLIED THAT ONE OF FACTS OF LIFE WAS CONGRESSIONAL

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 08636 121043Z

LIMITATIONS. WE HAD LITTLE FLEXIBILITY IN SUCH MATTERS

THESE DAYS. MOBUTU SHOT BACK THAT WE HAD NO PROBLEM IN  
ASSISTING CAMBODIA OR TURKEY. WHEN I TOOK EXCEPTION, COMMENTING  
ON BUDGET CUTS AND CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL  
ATTITUDES TOWARDS TURKEY, HE SAID, "YES, BUT YOU FOUND  
TWO MONTHS' LEAWAY IN WHICH YOU CAN FLOOD TURKEY WITH  
ARMS AID". AT THIS POINT HE SWITCHED GEARS AND SPOKE  
OF HIS PLEASURE IN LEARNING THAT SENATOR FULBRIGHT HAD  
INVITED FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA TO WASHINGTON, ETC.  
HINTON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974KINSHA08636  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** KINSHASA 8596  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARMS SALES TO ZAIRE  
**TAGS:** MASS, EAID, CG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005